

Message Text

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TAGS: EAID, XA, EEC

SUBJECT: DONOR CONSULTATIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: A. BRUSSELS 14863 (1977) B. BRUSSELS 16959 (1977)
C. STATE 9531 D. BRUSSELS 1264 (1978)

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE DRAFT DOCUMENT CIRCULATED BY
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DG-VIII DIRECTOR GENERAL MAURICE FOLEY AT INFORMAL GATHER-
ING ON JANUARY 15-16 IN BRUSSELS OF OFFICIALS CONCERNED
WITH DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE HAVE ALSO DIS-
CUSSED FOLEY'S PROPOSAL TO HOLD LARGER INFORMAL MEETING
AT 30 TO 40 INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS, POSSIBLY IN JUNE IN
DENMARK. UNDER FOLEY'S PROPOSAL INVITATIONS MIGHT BE
ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER, (AS

PRESIDENT OF THE EEC COUNCIL) AND MR. C. CHEYSSON (AS A COMMISSION MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPMENT) TO DISCUSS PAPERS ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE DEPENDENCY OF MAJORITY-RULED STATES ON SOUTH AFRICA, THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. MR. THOMAS QUIMBY, AID DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AFFAIRS, WHO ATTENDED JANUARY 15-16 SESSIONS, WILL BE COMMUNICATING BY LETTER DIRECTLY TO FOLEY IN WHICH HE WILL

CONVEY THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

3. AS EC IS AWARE, WE ARE PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF EXCHANGES WITH EC ON ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA PARTICULARLY DURING VISIT TO BRUSSELS IN OCTOBER OF ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF AID FOR AFRICA. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY EVOLVING PATTERN OF PERIODIC CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS SUPPLEMENTED BY MORE FREQUENT EXCHANGES AMONG INDIVIDUAL AID AND EC SPECIALISTS AND WISH THESE TO CONTINUE.

4. WE ARE, HOWEVER, CONCERNED THAT FOLEY'S PROPOSED MID-SUMMER CONFERENCE AND PROJECTED RANGE OF TOPICS WOULD EXPAND THE DISCUSSIONS FROM THE PRESENT EXCHANGES OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND IDEAS TO A MORE VISIBLE, FORMAL EXCHANGE OF BROAD ISSUES WITH ATTENDANT RISK OF TRANS-

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MITTING TO BOTH EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS UNINTENDED SIGNALS REGARDING U.S. INTERESTS AND CAPABILITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOLEY HAS ON EARLIER OCCASIONS (REF A, B AND D) IMPLIED OR STATED THAT CONSULTATIONS SHOULD DEAL WITH HOW CHANGING POLITICAL PICTURE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL AFFECT ASSISTANCE DECISIONS. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PROPOSED CONFERENCE MIGHT IMPINGE ON ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WHICH THE EC IS AWARE OF THROUGH THE INVOLVEMENT OF CERTAIN MEMBER STATES AND THROUGH ESTABLISHED POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS SUCH AS THE US DIALOGUE WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES USG OFFICIALS NOT EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

6. FYI. WE DO WISH TO CONTINUE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH FOLEY AND EC ON IMPORTANT ISSUES DESIGNED TO INCREASE UTILITY OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN THIS CONNECTION YOU ARE AWARE THAT AID, IN COOPERATION WITH STATE, IS NOW IN MIDST OF MAJOR STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST CONTAINED IN LEGISLATION GOVERNING

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR US SECURITY SUPPORTING
ASSISTANCE (SSA) PROGRAMS. ELEMENTS OF THIS STUDY WILL
COVER SOME OF THE SAME GROUND PROPOSED IN FOLEY OUTLINE.
ONE PORTION OF THE STUDY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS TO BE AN
ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROGRAMS OF OTHER
DONORS IN THE REGION. IN THIS INSTANCE AND POSSIBLY
OTHERS WE HOPE TO MAKE USE OF OUR CONTACTS WITH THE EC
TO HELP PROVIDE BACKGROUND AND TO DISCUSS WITH MR. FOLEY

OUR ANALYSIS AS IT DEVELOPS.

7. IN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER YOU MAY DRAW UPON POINTS
CITED IN PARAS 3-5 ABOVE AND YOU MAY WISH TO REFER TO
FORTHCOMING QUIMBY LETTER WHICH WILL BE COPIED TO YOU.
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